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Connection

Kevin Peterson
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March 06, 2014

COL Kimberly M. Colloton, PMP
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
915 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA

Dear COL Colloton,

I am writing on behalf the Sierra Vista Area Chamber, the largest business organization in Cochise County, representing 662 members and approximately 14,000 employees. One of our core values is to engage in business advocacy and legislative action, The Chamber works tirelessly to stay current on as many issues as possible at the local, state and federal levels. Each month the Chamber's Business Advocacy Committee meets to discuss issues that are affecting or have the potential to affect our businesses.

We are grateful for the hard work your agency has devoted to the Rosemont Copper Project in Arizona. The Corps of Engineers has played an extensive and important role in this process, guiding the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) process and managing the 404 permitting process under the Clean Water Act.

Since the original application and the subsequent public notice for this project by the Corps in December 2011, the permitting process has continued to evolve. This evolution has taken time, and as the largest business organization in Southern Arizona, we are naturally concerned when unnecessary regulatory delays in the permitting and environmental review process prevent good projects from proceeding so they can bring economic strength and jobs to our community. We understand the Corps is pushing the process forward and we appreciate that approach.

From our perspective, it seems that Rosemont Copper, regulatory agencies, tribes, conservation groups and the community have collaborated to identify the best possible plan for Rosemont. Rosemont will provide 10% of the nation's copper production. Producing copper domestically is something in the public's best interest. It is far better to have our natural resources "Made in the USA" rather than on foreign soil. We are impressed with Rosemont's approach to land and water conservation.

As a business organization, we await Rosemont's anticipated employment of almost 2,000 workers for two years during construction, 450 direct employees

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**Office of the ASA(CW)
Washington, DC**



for mine operations and more than 1,700 indirect jobs. These jobs are expected to produce a \$3.3 billion increase in personal income over the 20-year life of the mine. The project will put Arizonans to work with above average compensation levels.

The Sierra Vista Area Chamber commends you and your colleagues for your commitment to a thorough, credible permitting process. We urge you to continue working through the permitting process expeditiously and that you find, as we did, that Rosemont provides a unique opportunity to provide a large public benefit while mitigating impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Benson".

Michael J Benson
Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Deanna La Velle".

Deanna La Velle
Executive Director

Cc:

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Room 3E700
Washington, DC 20310-0101

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Michael Boots
Acting Director
White House Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group

168 East 4th Street

Benson, AZ 85602

www.saedg.org

03-12-14

Col. Kimberly M Colloton
US Army Corps of Engineers
915 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Col. Colloton;

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group (SAEDG) and the employees those companies represent. SAEDG was created in 2007 to work with existing and prospective business-owners and other stakeholders in Cochise County Arizona to identify, develop and expand opportunities within the Cochise County AZ region. SAEDG believes the prosperity of Southeast Arizona depends on the stability and vitality of all area businesses, large and small. Expanding and strengthening economic activity throughout the region ensures healthier communities. Our organization works closely with private and public partners to promote business ownership and related support channels in Southeast Arizona.

We are grateful for the work your agency has devoted to the Rosemont Copper Project in Southern Arizona. The Corps of Engineers has had an extensive and important role in this process, guiding the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) process and managing the 404 permitting process under the Clean Water Act.

Since the original application and the subsequent public notice for this project by the Corps in 2011, the permitting process has continued to move forward. We are concerned when unnecessary regulatory delays in permitting and environmental review processes keep projects from proceeding. We appreciate the fact that the Corps is pushing the process forward and we appreciate that approach.

As a business organization we look forward to the approximately 2000 jobs during the construction period and the 450 employees for mining operations. This project will put Southern Arizonans to work with above average compensations levels in the mining industry.

Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group appreciates your commitment to a thorough, credible permitting process. We urge you to continue working through the permitting process and allow the Rosemont Copper Project to move forward.

Sincerely,



George Scott
Director

Cc:

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable John McHugh
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